

Wycombe jolted by back-from-Rome Jim Lewis

Sports Mail Special Report

WALTHAMSTOW 4 : WYCOMBE WAND. 1

INTERNATIONAL Jim Lewis marked his return from the Rome Olympics with some splendid goals for Walthamstow Avenue against Wycombe Wanderers today in an Isthmian League fixture.

Walthamstow: McGuire; Edwards, Bambridge; Rowley, Prince, Keenes; Groves, Mercer, Lewis, Minall, Harvey.

Wycombe W: Brown; Beck, Timberlake; Thomas, Bartholomew, Darvill; Worley, Rockall, Bates, Trott, Tomlin.

Referee: L S Syrett.

Clever ball control by Jack Tomlin had the Avenue defence in a tangle, and goalkeeper McGuire had to dive to take the ball from the feet of Bates.

Bartholomew policed Lewis closely, but after he and Beck had failed to clear Brown had to palm the ball out for a corner.

Wycombe played with great spirit, and they nearly scored when Trott's header was kicked off the goalline by Bambridge.

LEWIS ON THE MARK

The Wanderers' wing halves played impressively and when Darvill took the ball upfield the Avenue only just cleared his final pass to Trott.

A typical piece of LEWIS opportunism gave Avenue a 12th minute lead. He seemed to be standing two yards off-side when he received a long pass, evaded Bartholomew and scored easily.

A great swerving drive from full-back Bambridge nearly added a second. Then Minall netted but was offside.

Wanderers showed plenty of fight. Although they were not as fast as the dangerous Avenue forwards they did enough to equalise. Bates nearly did when he beat two men and rolled the ball wide of a post.

LEWIS, moving like a greyhound, struck again in the 29th minute. Receiving a through ball he shot viciously and al-

though Brown partially stopped the ball it rolled past him into the net.

BATES GOES CLOSE

As Avenue got on top Brown showed top class coolness. Len Worley, facing a very sound full back, could make little impression.

A magnificent effort by Bates only just failed after he had beaten three opponents.

Right on the interval MINALL added a third for Walthamstow.

Half-time: Walthamstow 3, Wycombe 0.

QUICK TACKLING

The quick tackling of the Avenue half-backs cut off many Wycombe attacks, but there was no stopping Tomlin when he no stopping Tomlin, when he bobbed up on the right wing. His fierce drive was only just parried by McGuire.

Wycombe had a very narrow escape when a bad back pass from Darvill was only gathered with great difficulty by Brown under his own crossbar.

Sadly in need of a tonic goal Wycombe tried desperately hard. Rockall and Trott both went near, before Darvill handled as he stormed through.

Perseverance was rewarded in the 66th minute when TROTT scored an easy goal from Worley's pass.

But man-of-the-match LEWIS sealed Wycombe's fate in the 75th minute when he streaked through the centre to score another great goal.

But even Lewis failed when he blazed a penalty kick well wide after Bartholomew had handled.

Walthamstow—the crisper and speedier side—deserved to win, but not by this margin.

RESULT:

WALTHAMSTOW 4
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

WYCOMBE LET CHANCES SLIP

Walthamstow 4 Wycombe 1

JIM LEWIS, Walthamstow Avenue leader, celebrated his return from the Olympic Games by scoring three goals in this Isthmian League clash. He had a great chance of scoring another, but shot wide from a penalty near the end.

Both teams played good football. Walthamstow started full of fight with four corners within the first eight minutes.

A Wycombe attack brought a corner after nine minutes and Walthamstow left-back Bambridge kicked clear on the goal line. Three minutes later, a pass by the back was the inspiration of Walthamstow's first goal, scored by Lewis.

Good covering by the Walthamstow defence checked good moves by Wycombe, but in one breakaway Wycombe's leader, Bates, missed an open goal.

Bambridge and Minall were behind Lewis's second goal, after 30 minutes. This brought strong retaliation from Wycombe, who forced two corners. A shot by Worley was just blocked by Walthamstow goalkeeper McGuire.

A little later McGuire made a dive to save off the feet of Bates.

Walthamstow forced a corner just on half-time, and, after Harvey's shot had been blocked, Minall ran in to score.

Wycombe stormed to the attack in the second half, but were foiled by the agile goalkeeping of McGuire, who made one fine save from Tomlin. But Wycombe pressure was rewarded after 70 minutes, when Trott scored following a mix-up in the Walthamstow goalmouth.

Harvey, on Walthamstow's left wing, then tested the Wycombe defence, and his long run ended with a shot which was well saved by Brown.

With 15 minutes to go Lewis ran into position to rip a shot into the top of the net.